(c) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing policy.

Ratio of women employees in NIC

437. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the ratio of men and women employees in different NICs;

(b) whether there is an imbalance against the women employees; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to employ more women in NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The ratio of men and women employees of NIC is 233:50 (4.66:1).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Telephone facilities in Rajasthan

438. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the number of blocks, gram panchayats and villages covered under telephone facility in State of Rajasthan by BSNL;

(b) by when telephone facilities will be provided to all the villages of Rajasthan; and

(c) the measures taken for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 30-9-2007, Government has provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) to 34,554 villages including Gram Panchayats.

(b) and (c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of VPTs in remaining 12,386 unconnected villages in Rajasthan. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 30-9-2007, out of 12,386 unconnected eligible villages in Rajasthan 10,696 villages have been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 1,690 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by June, 2008.

Data thefts cases

†439. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the number of data theft cases brought in the cognizance of Government during last three years;

(b) the action being taken in these cases; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the efforts being taken by Government for the safety of data and to prevent cyber crimes so that these crimes are not repeated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of data theft cases registered by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the provisions of IT Act 2000 during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of cases
2004	Nil
2005	1
2006	Nil

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not maintain the information on data theft cases separately.

(b) The case registered by CBI has been charge sheeted and is under trial.

(c) The Government has taken steps for the safety of data and to prevent cyber crime so that these crimes are not repeated. A Bill to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000 so as to strengthen the regulatory framework pertaining to data protection, and privacy of information has been introduced in the Parliament.

Renting of cellular phones

440. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are aware that three private cellular service providers Vodafone, Airtel and Idea have rented out SIMs in bulk through their agents who don't seek ID proof from each user;

(b) whether it is violation of the license agreement signed by cellular operators which clearly stipulates that SIMs must be sold and not rented out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Three private cellular service providers, namely, M/s Vodafone, M/s Airtel and M/s Idea were found to be involved in renting out their domestic SIM cards in bulk through their agents *viz.* M/s Matrix Cellular (International) Service Pvt. Ltd., M/s Falcon Business Corporation Pvt. Limited and M/s. Galaxy Rent a Tel. Pvt. Limited and M/s Limco Sales Corporation Pvt. Limited.

(b) and (c) Checks, in this regard, are being carried out by DoT through its Vigilance Technical Monitoring (VTM) Cells. Certain violations are reported by VTM Cells and action for violations/ discrepancies shall be taken as per the terms and conditions of Licence Agreement after following due procedure.

Verification of mobile phone user

441. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state: